

COMMUNITY CHURCH LEISURE WORLD

LIGHTING
A pathway into community

GROWING
Disciples in God's Love

SENDING
The Hope and Joy of Jesus

Our Vision: To Be Love to Leisure World

14000 Church Place
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

Sunday Service: 9:50 AM
562-431-2503

June 29, 2025
3rd Sunday After Pentecost

**POSSESSED
BY
EMPIRE**



Rev. Johan Dodge

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Johan Dodge

Good Morning and Welcome to Worship! Worship is often the first place that new people come into contact with this growing community of faith. And so, if you are joining us for the first time, I say to you what is said every Sunday: You are welcome here. Here is a place where all are welcome. For such is the love of God for God's Very Good Creation.

[please stand as you are able]

CALL TO WORSHIP: Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures
here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye Heav'n - ly
host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system covers measures 1-5, the second system covers measures 6-9, and the third system covers measures 10-13. The melody is primarily in the right hand, with chords and bass lines in the left hand. The lyrics are placed below the right-hand staff of each system.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Lois Dimos

As prophets catch the Spirit, as disciples draw fire, as apostles serve
in your way, O Loving God, fill us with fervent desire to establish your
kindom. Lead us by the way of Jesus to live in your love, now and
forever. Amen.

HYMN: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor;
Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,
there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system covers measures 1-4, and the second system covers measures 5-8. The melody is primarily in the right hand, with chords and bass lines in the left hand. The lyrics are placed below the right-hand staff of each system.

9

Thou chang - est not; Thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

13

As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

17

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

22

morn - ing, new mer - cies I see. All I have need - ed Thy

27

hand hath pro - vid - ed. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness,

31

1, 2. Lord un - to me! Lord un - to me!

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

[A time of silence is kept after each petition.]

God of creations and the generations in light, hear us as we pray for the coming of your kin-dom.

Cleanse the pollution of the world caused by human sin. Receive the body of the earth, and the bodies of your creation into your holy presence. Swell with us and be our light. Hear us as we pray for the healing of the nations.

Silence the wars and rumors of terror that plague the human family. Guide leaders of the world to the river and the tree of life. May the fruits of the Spirit feed the people of the earth and sustain all of your creation. Hear us as we pray for all who suffer.

Lift the yoke of human suffering from the sick, the hungry, and the grieving. Move our hearts to serve all who are in need.

With a mighty voice, let the church roar justice! With a tender kiss, let her pray Mercy. With open hands, let her say Peace be with you, in the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Refrain

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-ing for to car - ry me home.

Fine

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-ing for to car - ry me home.

Verses

1. I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see,
2. If you get there be - fore I do,
3. I'm some - times up and some - times down,

12

com - ing for to car - ry me home? _____ A band _ of an - gels
 com - ing for to car - ry me home. _____ Tell all _ my friends I'm
 com - ing for to car - ry me home. _____ But still _ my soul feels

15

com - ing af - ter me, _____ com - ing for to car - ry me home.
 com - ing there _ too, _____ com - ing for to car - ry me home.
 Hea - ven - ly _____ bound, com - ing for to car - ry me home.

To Refrain

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Lois Dimos

Loving God, by your Spirit plant your desire within us that we may follow in the way of Jesus. May we find our footing as we carry the way of your kingdom into the world through the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Lois Dimos

Galatians 3:23-29

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Luke 8:26-39

²⁶Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," ²⁹for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and

be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. ³¹They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³²Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. ³⁶Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

MESSAGE: “Possessed by Empire” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Where do the trappings of Empire possess your thoughts about God?
Where do you need to let go of the ideas of a God of punishment and control? How does the God of love as revealed through Jesus empower you to turn to the Holy Spirit and release those around you who are still trapped in empire?

REFLECTION: “Journey of a Soul” — John Flucker, *pianist*
— *playing his own original composition*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Lois Dimos

The Blessings that come from God are rich like the fruits of summer. With our tithes and our offerings let us give thanks and praise to God who is Creator, Guide and Source of all love and power in the world. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “True Colors”

— Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Lois Dimos

God our Maker, Guide and Source of love. You made us in your image and gave us a place in your creation. You walk with us in the valleys and as we celebrate the view from the peaks. As we journey in your way you have taught us neighbor love and spoke to us words of justice, correction, and kindness. We present our offerings and commit ourselves to your way of love as taught through the Way of Jesus — loving our neighbors, sharing the fruits of the spirit, giving that and praise. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me. _____

Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be. _____

With God, our Cre - a - tor, _____ we are fam - i - ly. _____

Let us walk with each oth - er _____ in per - fect har - mo - ny. _____

Let peace be - gin with me, let this be the mo - ment now; _____

With ev - 'ry step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow: _____ To

take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly; _____

57

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me.

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

Rejoice in the love of God by loving others and building the kin-dom of God as we go forth to live as the body of Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH: "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love: The
fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove. A - men.

Doxology (Old Hundredth LM)

Music by Louis Bourgeois, 1551
Words by Thomas Ken, 1674

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Music by Alexander William Marion Runyan;
Words by Thomas O. Chisholm

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Traditional African American Spiritual;
Attributed to William & Minerva Willis (1860)

"Journey of a Soul"

Music composed and arranged by John Fluker

"True Colors"

Words & Music by Billy Steinberg & Tom Kelly
© 1986 Sony/ATV Tunes LLC, USA

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Music & Words by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson
© 1955, 1983; Arr. Copyright © 1991 by Jan
Lee Music, Beverly Hills, California

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (Dennis SM)

Music by Johann G. Nägeli, 1768-1836
Words by John Fawcett, 1740-1817
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

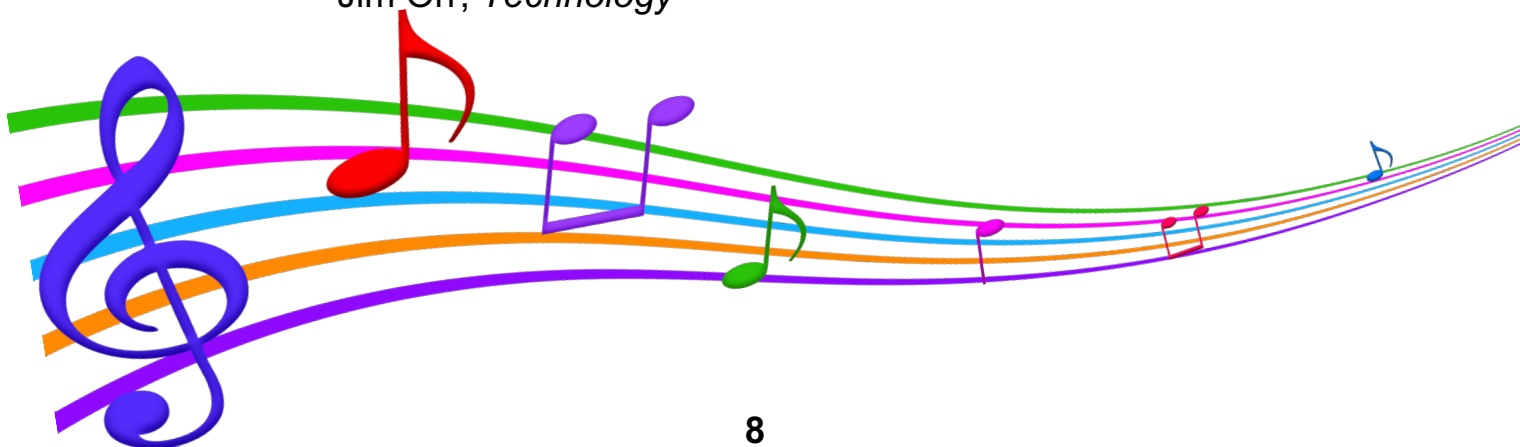
All music herein transcribed & adapted by
D. Albulario for Leisure World Community
Church, Seal Beach, California.

LEISURE WORLD COMMUNITY CHURCH

14000 Church Pl, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562-431-2503 /// CCLI License No. 187225

Music Team: Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*
John Fluker, *Pianist*
Jim Orr, *Technology*

Jennifer Rudy, *Soprano*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*



PRAYER REQUESTS

new Sandy Walker – Sandy was recently diagnosed with a respiratory infection and says that her doctor has put her on “house arrest” for two weeks. Prayers for effective antibiotics, quick recovery, and general good health.

new Jenny Chang – Jenny continues to suffer from pain and takes regular medication that allows her to function. Prayers for relief from pain and general good health.

Whenever you are in need of prayer for any specific concerns or challenges, please contact the Church Office at 562-431-2503. We'll include your prayer request in this space.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and **FELLOWSHIP**: Today's flowers anonymously provided today. Fellowship refreshments are provided by Jeanette Williams. See the sign-up charts to provide refreshments or cover the cost of altar flowers for future services. Altar flowers are \$35. Sandy Walker coordinates arrangements.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR: This Thursday, July 3rd, join Pastor Johan for “Coffee with Pastor,” a weekly time of fellowship & check-in over coffee. Questions? Want to discuss today's message? The weight of the world on your mind? Join us for a cup of coffee or tea with good company. Come & share your thoughts and a cup o' joe! As always, [ALL](#) are invited and welcome!

DOUBLE PIANO CONCERT: On Sunday, July 13th, LWCC resident pianist **Hannah Yi**, will perform a **Double Piano Concert** entitled “**Key Conversations**” with fellow pianist **Susan Kim-Pedroza**. The performance will feature music by Anderson and Roe, Rachmaninoff, Gershwin, and more, played on **TWO PIANOS SIMULTANEOUSLY**: our legacy Yamaha grand piano, and our newly-donated Baldwin grand piano – *courtesy of Will Mulcahy and the Mulcahy Family, in memory of their mother Judy Mulcahy.*

NEED A BIBLE?: Free Bibles on the small bookshelf in the narthex. *Help yourself.*

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

June 1st: 35 | June 8th: 32 | June 15th: 31 | June 22nd: 34

PEACE **LOVE** **HOPE** **JOY**
KINDNESS **FORGIVENESS**
COMPASSION **MUSIC**

Key Conversations



Susan Kim-Pedroza and Hannah Yi

July 13th | 3:30pm

Leisure World Community Church
14000 Church Pl. Seal Beach 90740

**Featuring works written for 2 Pianos and 4 Hands
By Anderson and Roe, Rachmaninoff, Gershwin and More**



SCAN TO BUY TICKETS
OR CALL 562-431-2503

June 29, 2025



GROW PRAY STUDY

Notes from the Service

My Prayers this week:

Prayer Journal

Use these prayers in your time with God each day.

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving ever-present God, I am in awe of your gift to me. Help me live this day fully open to your presence. Let me serve you and your creation through my body, mind, and spirit, delighting in what is good and turning from what is not. Let me love my neighbor as myself with all that you give me. Be patient with me, and help me to be patient with others. Teach me how to bring peace to those who are troubled and to show kindness, especially to the weak. Today, let me build your kin-dom, through Jesus I pray. Amen.

*Consider The Upper Room Daily Devotional
as a resource for Midday Prayer.*

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you God, for your care of me today. As I move into evening, help me to recall with thanksgiving the wonders I have know, the joy I have felt, and your love I have received. I pray for all who are dear to me, that they too, may abide in your care. Grant the peace of sleep to all who are weary; and let us rise to a new day, giving you praise. Amen.